

And The Winner Is...



Graduate List

Pg. 14-15



SPRING FLING 2008

Pg. 8-9

# COUGAR CRY

May 2008

Serving Wilkes, Ashe, & Alleghany Counties

Volume 38- Issue 4

## MerleFest 2008 Fun for Over 76,000 Participants

MerleFest 2008, presented by Lowe's, was enjoyed by over 76,000 participants. Over four days, the Wilkes Community College campus became the home of a wide variety of traditional-plus fans and players.

Preliminary estimates show that MerleFest 2008 overall participation reached 76,708 which is comparable to 2007 participation of 79,412. "We are so proud that MerleFest fans remain committed to the event despite current economic conditions and threatening weather that included a storm delay on Saturday," says festival director Ted Hagaman. "Since we opened ticket sales in November we have seen single day ticket sales outpace four-day ticket sales."

MerleFest honors the memory of Eddy Merle Watson and the musical contributions that he and father, Doc Watson, have made. The music of MerleFest is best explained by Doc himself; "When Merle and I started out we called our music 'traditional-plus,' meaning the traditional music of the Appalachian

region plus whatever other styles we were in the mood to play. Since the beginning, the people of the college and I have agreed that the music of MerleFest is 'traditional-plus' and this year's line-up shows what that is all about."



Photo By Brian Barker

Performers at MerleFest 2008 included The Avett Brothers; Abigail Washburn & The Sparrow Quartet featuring Bela Fleck, Casey Driessen, & Ben Sollee; Sam Bush; The Carolina Chocolate Drops; Jerry Douglas; Levon Helm & The Midnight Ramble on the Road with Special Guests; Solas "Reunion," with Karan Casey & John Doyle; Ricky Skaggs & Bruce Hornsby with Kentucky Thunder; Ralph Stanley & The Clinch Mtn Boys; Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives; Rhonda Vincent and The Rage; Dan Tyminski Band;

See MerleFest 2008 on pg. 11

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Cougar Cry Editorial Guidelines And Staff.....	2
The Counseling Corner.....	2
SGA President At Ashe Campus Wins Prestigious Award.....	3
Bringing Critical Thinking to the Forefront of Wilkes Community College .....	3
New Faces at WCC.....	4
Marshals Announced For Wilkes Community College Commencement.....	12